

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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Deaf Gain concept introduced

"Deaf people can do anything" has long served as a mantra for the deaf community. The saying suggests that deaf people are always striving to prove themselves the equals of so-called normal people. In the March 12 presentation "Deaf Gain: The Future of Gallaudet," ASL and Deaf Studies professor H-Dirksen Bauman and assistant professor Joseph Murray challenged this rhetoric.

"Deaf people perceive the world differently," said Dr. Bauman simply in the presentation. That unique way of being is worth learning about, he said, and it will be hearing people's loss if they do not take the opportunity.

Showing a picture of three glasses full, half full, or empty of water, Bauman asked the audience to consider how they conceptualized each glass. Were they really full or empty based on the amount of water they contained? Is the "empty" glass not packed full of life-giving air? The concept of Deaf Gain, in many ways, is simply a matter of seeing difference as an opportunity rather than a lack.

Dr. Murray pointed out the biological and political advantages to embracing diversity. Ecologists have long recognized the importance of biodiversity; linguists celebrate the fact that humans have thousands of different languages, and lament the dying of so many in recent years. "Imagine a world where everyone is the same!" Murray encouraged the audience, showing a photo

of rows of identical men in suits. Such homogenization—of species, languages, or human bodies—would be of great detriment to the world, Murray said.

Therefore, the two argued, society should honor and study skills that deaf people can bring to the table, like increased spatial cognition, speed of generating mental images, peripheral vision, and tactile acuity. Their very mode of communication—visual signs—represent the origins of all human language. "Spoken language began with pointing to an object," Bauman said. "That helped us apply meaning."

Gallaudet has capitalized on the concept of Deaf Gain already. It has done this in a very high-profile way by housing the Visual Language, Visual Learning (VL2) research center supported by the National Science Foundation, and by using Deaf Gain to help guide Gallaudet's long range strategic planning process. The DeafSpace Project, which looks at design with a deaf way of being in mind, is another example. "This kind of design is not just good for people, but it is good for humanity," Bauman said—but such a benefit can only come about if more architects and planners see the "empty" glass in a new light.

More on Deaf Gain will appear in an article authored by Bauman and Murray in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, Vol. 2. ■

Faculty present at international conference on disability



Faculty members Teresa Blankmeyer Burke (center left) and Amy Wilson (center right) pose with conference participants at the Third International Conference on Disability in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

By Teresa Blankmeyer Burke

Representing Gallaudet among the presenters at the Third International Conference on Disability in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 22 to 26 were Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, an instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion; Jimmy Gore, an English as a Second Language trainer in the English Language Institute; and Dr. Amy Wilson, associate professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research. Also in attendance from Gallaudet were several English Language Institute students.

The goal of the conference, which was sponsored by the Prince Salman Center on Disability Research, was to examine and promote the role of research in preventing disability and improving the quality of life of individuals with disabilities.

Burke identified some of the key ethical issues related to the use of genetic technologies and explained some of the most common arguments

about these issues, using the dual frameworks of the American signing deaf community and western analytic philosophy.

Manipulative Visual Language was the topic of Gore's workshop. He taught participants this object-based instructional tool and explained how it can help deaf and visual learners.

In her presentation, Wilson discussed moving away from a medically quantitative approach of "looking at deafness" to using a socio-cultural participatory model that includes deaf people when working with deaf communities in all research and development projects.

About 50 deaf Middle Easterners attended the conference where, for the first time, sign language interpreters (Saudi Sign Language, ASL, and International Sign) graced the stage while spoken Arabic and English was also interpreted. On the day before the conference opened, Markku Jokinen, president of the World Federation of the Deaf, led a workshop on the human rights of deaf people based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities. Twenty deaf people from 10 Arabic speaking countries attended this workshop; each country was represented by a man and a woman. All the other presenters invited to speak to concerns of the deaf community echoed this call for social justice, including the need to include perspectives from deaf people when developing policies and research agendas that affect them.

Although this conference was about all disabilities, Wilson and Burke said it appeared to them that the deaf attendees took the opportunity to focus on the many struggles they face in Saudi

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Dr. Ann Powell, chair of the Department of Biology and head of the Diversity Team, presents a report on Gallaudet's diversity initiatives to Dr. Isaac Agboola, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Technologies, during a March 30 Town Hall meeting. Agboola accepted the report on behalf of President Davila. The report, which is also available at gallaudet.edu/diversity.xml, states the team's recommendations in relation to the Diversity Action Plan and the Democracy Plan. Members of the Diversity Team pictured are (from left): Michael Peterson, Eileen Matthews, Dr. Barbara Gerner de Garcia, Dr. Jane Hurst, Paula Tucker, Dr. Cheryl Wu, Dr. Barry Bergen, Alesha Howard, Mark Amisshah, and Elvia Guillermo. (Team members not pictured are: William Banks, James Harrison, Kimberly Huseby, Tracey Kempton, Dr. Angela McCaskill, Sharrell McCaskill, Dr. Janice Mitchell, Dr. Gina Oliva, Hector Reynoso, Darrin Smith, Carlene Thumann-Prezioso, Hatim Vali, and Ron Wesley.)



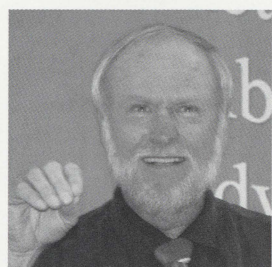
Filmmaker Carol Duffy (left) chats with a member of the audience following an April 2 screening at Gallaudet of her documentary, *Deaf: Hear Me*. Also pictured is GIS interpreter Ariel Pearson. The film has been used by the deaf community in New Delhi, India to increase awareness, change attitudes, and create more equitable opportunities. After the screenings, several audience members stated that the film reflects many of the same challenges they, too, face whether born in developing countries or in the United States. Duffy's visit was sponsored by the Center for International Programs and Services and the Master's in International Development Program in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research.

IN THIS ISSUE



Roving Reporter

These are a few of my favorite things... For Ayuk Ogork, it's the "Bison Song."




Dr. Harry Lang talks about the connection between the deaf community and Abraham Lincoln.



Judy Stout presents at Student Activities' Women's Awareness Month kickoff on March 4.

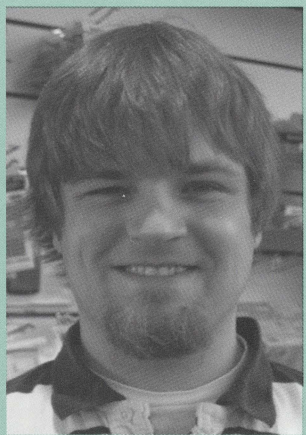
Roving Reporter

What is your favorite Gallaudet tradition?



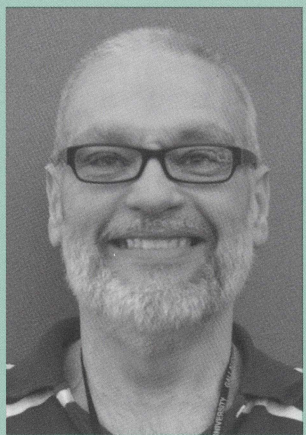
Anything that relates to my class bond, like Senior Trip!

Tova Pitler, student



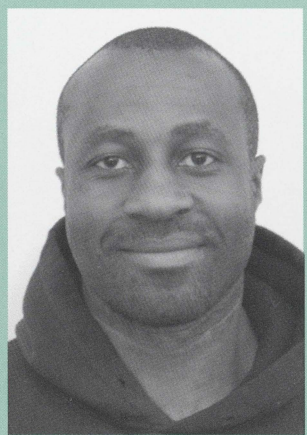
Buff and blue shirts on Wednesdays.

Nathan Klewin, cashier, Bison Shop



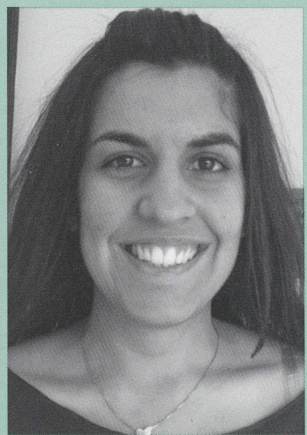
When the sororities and fraternities march and announce who made it in.

John Schumacher, student




The "Bison Song" during football games.

Ayuk Ogork, residential educator, MSSD



International Awareness Week when we sell international food, show international dance, and hold workshops.

Lauren Sánchez, student




Library Catalog Technician Bonnie Sanderlin and Ulf Hedberg, director of Deaf Library Collections and Archives, who supervised her, visit the yearbook section of the library on Sanderlin's last day before retirement. When she left on March 31, Sanderlin had worked at Gallaudet for almost 25 years. Her favorite part of working at the Library, Sanderlin said, was collecting and cataloging yearbooks from deaf schools around the country. She plans to come back and volunteer at the Library after her retirement.

International conference
continued from page 1


Arabia and throughout the Middle East. They witnessed a change in the deaf participants as they demanded that interpreters be available for all sessions and that cameras be focused on interpreters rather than the speakers so deaf people could all see easily. Deaf men and women from Saudi Arabia stood and shared with the 500 conference attendees that they wanted to end oralism in the country and that they had the right to use sign language in all venues. ■

Correction:

The "Roving Reporter" comments of Deborah Shaw, senior accounts payable specialist in the Finance Office, ran with a photo of Christina Shen-Austin, benefits associate in the Human Resources Services Office, in the April 10 issue of *On the Green*. This is Shaw's photo. OTG regrets the error.



Community mourns passing of Brenda Keller



The University community mourns the passing of Brenda Keller, long-time supervisor of Postal Services. Keller, 52, died on March 23 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Brenda Kay Smith Keller was born in Fort Campbell, Ky. She grew up in Florida and graduated from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in 1976. She entered Gallaudet University the following fall. A member of the Class of 1981, she graduated with the Class of 1982, and began her career at Gallaudet immediately upon graduation. In 1999, she received her master's degree in administration.

At the time of her death, Keller oversaw Postal Services and the University's contract with Bon Appétit Management Company, which provides food service in the University and MSSD dining halls, the Market Place, and the Rathskellar, as well as catering services for the University. She was also a long-time advisor to the *Tower Clock*, the student yearbook. The 2002 edition of the *Tower Clock* was dedicated to her. She also served as a member of the Student Media Board.

Keller served on numerous University committees and task forces, and was an officer of the National Organization of the Phi Kappa Zeta Sorority. The Friday before her death, she co-chaired a well-attended fundraising extravaganza for Phi Kappa Zeta. Observers described her as "the life of the party."

Keller served as chair of the Class of 1981's Silver Anniversary reunion in 2006. She was instrumental in erecting a class bench on campus as her class' gift to Gallaudet after its Silver Anniversary reunion. Keller also served as an unofficial advisor to chairs of future Silver Anniversary classes, offering tips on how to "personalize" class reunions.

Over 250 people attended Keller's funeral on Saturday, March 28 at the Lee Funeral Home in Owings, Md., and a reception at the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department in Chesapeake Beach, Md.

Keller is survived by her husband of 27 years, David J. Keller, E-'81; a son, Joseph Ray Keller, a daughter, Kristine Day Keller, and two brothers, Jeffrey Smith and Daniel Smith. Plans for an on-campus memorial service are pending. ■

Campus Calendar

- April**
April 2-May 8—Bison Shop Textbook Buyback Program, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Bison Shop
- May**
1-3—2nd Annual D.C. ASL Film Festival, Foster Auditorium
4—End of spring semester; Athletic Sports Award Ceremony, 4-5:30 p.m., Foster Auditorium; PFLAG Monthly Meeting, 7:30-9 p.m., HMB S 135
5—Study Day; Academic Affairs Retirement Reception, 4-6:30 p.m., JSAC MPR
6-9—Spring semester final exams
10—Dorms close, noon
11—Grades due from faculty, Registrar's Office
14—Graduate Awards and Hooding Ceremony, 4 p.m., Elstad Auditorium
14-15—Board of Trustees meeting, GUKCH
15—Commencement exercises, 1:30 p.m., Field House
18—Summer school begins
25—Memorial Day observed

ON THE GREEN

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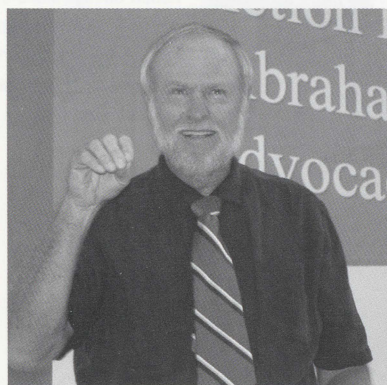
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Presentation offers evidence of President Lincoln's advocacy for deaf people



Following Dr. Harry Lang's (above) talk about Abraham Lincoln and his connection to the deaf community, a tree that had been recently planted in front of Chapel Hall was dedicated in Lincoln's honor by the co-chairs of Gallaudet's Lincoln Bicentennial activities, Diana Gates (left), Deaf Collections librarian in the University Library, and Dr. Edna Sayers (second from right), a professor in the English Department, and by Green Gallaudet organization Education Track Coordinator Clara Baldwin (second from left). The white oak, the official tree of Illinois, Lincoln's home state, is known for becoming large and stately when it reaches full growth, and will inspire future generations of Gallaudet students, said Baldwin. (Also pictured are Lang and Ruth Timme, a botanist from the University of Maryland, who served as consultant on the tree selection and the site to plant it.)



Imagining what life for deaf people would be like today if Gallaudet University had never existed is a bleak prospect indeed. Deaf people everywhere owe a huge debt to Abraham Lincoln for signing Gallaudet's Enabling Act on April 8, 1864, which the University celebrates as Charter Day. In the process he opened untold avenues of opportunity.

A question that has intrigued many scholars of the history of the deaf community is Lincoln's motivation for taking such a bold and far-reaching step to benefit deaf people. Did he have personal connections to the deaf community? Did he have close ties with deaf individuals?

Dr. Harry Lang believes Lincoln did have a strong affinity to deaf people. While conducting research for a book he is writing on deaf people and deafness during the American Civil War, Lang, a faculty member in the Master of Science in Secondary Education of Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Program at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, discovered compelling evidence of Lincoln's bond with deaf people. He shared some of his findings with a Gallaudet audience on April 3 in a presentation entitled "Actions Louder Than Words: Abraham Lincoln and his Advocacy for Deaf People." His talk was among the events scheduled in the University's celebration of Lincoln in this bicentennial year of his birth, and took place during Gallaudet's annual Charter Day festivities.

There are several pieces of evidence that point to Lincoln's awareness of deaf people, perhaps the most prominent being the fact that tens of thousands of soldiers became deaf in the Civil War, and he was a staunch advocate for pensions for veterans with disabilities. Also parents requested permission from Lincoln for their families to cross battle lines and return home, and deaf and hard of hearing people encouraged Lincoln to move more quickly toward the Emancipation Proclamation. Even as a senator in the 1830s, Lincoln showed his

support for deaf people, said Lang, by giving his vote for the founding of what is now the Illinois School for the Deaf. Closer to home, Lincoln's son, Tad, had a speech condition and was language delayed, said Lang, "which may be another reason for Lincoln to support deaf people because he understood the challenges that both they and his son faced."

Lincoln's social contacts give greater credence to his cognizance of the nation's deaf community. It is interesting to note that he was a close friend of Amos Kendall, postmaster general under presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren, and whose largesse led to the creation of the school that later became Gallaudet College. In fact, Kendall worked for Lincoln's re-election.

The president was also familiar with a number of noted deaf professionals of the day. Lincoln visited the Smithsonian Institution, where Fielding Bradford Meek, a respected deaf expert in fossils, resided. He and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, were also acquaintances with a prominent war correspondent of the day, Laura Redden, who was also a poet, and wrote under the pen name of Howard Glyndon. What made Redden remarkable—beside the fact that she was a successful woman in an age where journalism was considered a man's career—was that she was deaf. A graduate of the Missouri School for the Deaf, Redden was stationed in Washington, D.C., and telegraphed articles about the Civil War to the *St. Louis Republican*. Lang said that she met with Lincoln and reported on her visits to the White House on at least six occasions, communicating by passing notes back and forth. She was also close enough to the president to give him political advice, recommending that he choose Ulysses Grant (whom she knew well) for vice-president over Andrew Johnson, who ultimately got the position—and later became president after Lincoln's assassination.

In closing, Lang pointed to the progress in the education of deaf people

since Gallaudet's charter was signed: In the first year, there were eight deaf students enrolled at the school. By 1965 the number had grown to more than 500, and today there are approximately 32,000 deaf people enrolled in post-secondary programs around the nation.

Lincoln played a major role in pioneering in the establishment of opportunities that exist for deaf people, and for that reason, he said, "It is important that we celebrate Lincoln every Charter Day, not just this year." ■

Among Ourselves

Dr. Teresa Mason, chair, and Elizabeth Moore, MSW program director/assistant professor, Department of Social Work, gave a poster presentation, "Dating Violence and Abusive Relationships among Deaf Students," at Malaysia Science University's (USM) International Counseling and Social Work Symposium, January 6 and 7 in Penang, Malaysia. They were joined by Dr. Asiah Mason, director of Gallaudet's Center for International Programs and Services (CIPS). The three shared their idea of expanding international internship opportunities for Gallaudet students, particularly those who are enrolled in the master's of social work program. Asiah Mason and Moore met with members of the Penang Malaysia Association of the Deaf to discuss possible collaboration with other institutions, and visited the Penang Federation School for the Deaf. They also joined professors from other American universities for a discussion with USM Deputy Vice Chancellor Lim Koon Ong on topics such as internships and faculty/student exchange programs. Dr. Aznan Che Ahmad, a faculty member at USM's Department of Special Education Studies, has expressed interest in forming a partnership with CIPS.



Gathering to discuss deaf programs during a break at the International Counseling and Social Work Symposium are (from right): Dr. See Ching Mey, a professor in the School of Social Sciences at Malaysia Science University; Elizabeth Moore, MSW program director/assistant professor in Gallaudet's Department of Social Work; Dr. Aznan Che Ahmad, senior lecturer in the School of Education, Special Education Studies at Malaysia Science University; Teh Kean Hoe, a teacher at the Penang Federation School for the Deaf and secretary of the Penang Deaf Association; and Dr. Asiah Mason, director of Gallaudet's Center for International Programs and Services.

Dr. Donna Mertens, a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, has signed a contract with SAGE Publications to serve as editor for the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*. In addition, Mertens has made several presentations recently: On March 19 she led a seminar, "Research and Evaluation Paradigms: Alternative Views of the World," at Duquesne University for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Evaluation Fellows; on March 26, she presented "Transformative Evaluation" at the international seminar, "Thinking Evaluation in(situ)Action: From Theory to Program Changes," sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Health's National School of Public Health; and on March 31, Mertens and Dr. Bagele Chilisa, a professor at the University of Botswana, presented a workshop, "Mixed Methods and Social Transformation," in Cairo, Egypt, at the annual meeting of the African Evaluation Association. Also at the Cairo conference, Mertens presented "Rigor and Ethics in Impact Evaluation in Africa: Grounding in Social Justice," and participated in a panel presentation, "Nurturing a Scholarly Journal on Evaluation for Africa."



Dr. Donna Mertens, professor, and Dr. Amy Wilson, associate professor, faculty members in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, are pictured signing a contract with Guilford Publications for their writing of *Program Evaluation*, a textbook that they will complete for distribution in the spring of 2011.

Photo by Sarah Hogue

Academy Award-winning actress and Gallaudet trustee Marlee Matlin was featured in the April 1 issue of *People* magazine, where she was interviewed about her new autobiography, *I'll Scream Later*. The book was scheduled for release on April 14 by Simon & Schuster. Matlin will begin a book tour in the near future. She was also interviewed

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Clerc Center Happenings

Student environmentalists respond in record numbers to 'Going Green' contest

By Susan M. Flanigan

What have you done to help save the environment today? Did you bike to work, install energy saving light bulbs, or start an organic garden?

Deaf and hard of hearing students from around the country demonstrated the steps they are taking to save the earth through a record-breaking 645 entries to this year's Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and ASL Contest, which carried the theme, "Going Green: What I Am Doing to Save the Environment." Their essays, ASL videotapes, and artwork showed their intense interest and participation in being active stewards of our planet's resources.

Participants took a variety of approaches to the topic. In some of the essays students explored the idea of paperless homework assignments online using password-protected accounts. One researched energy tips online and found Blackle.com, a search engine powered by Google Custom Search that saves energy by displaying a black background for search result pages. Others focused on practical ideas for the home by encouraging families to buy green friendly products, grow organic vegetables, or recycle cooking oil.

Some ASL entries suggested conservation tips for using recyclable/refillable cups and water bottles, taking fewer showers, or biking to school or work. In one entry a student performed an A-to-Z list of environmental tips of things people can do; for instance, "Q" stood for "quit smoking."

The art entries illustrated a wide range of environmental views from collages and cartoons of recycling projects, to haunting and surreal depictions of landscapes devoid of life. Many of the artists incorporated the recycle logo as elements in their artwork in novel ways.

The Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and ASL Contest is co-sponsored annually by the University and the Clerc Center. Contestants attend schools for deaf students and public schools and are divided into two age groups: 9-14 and 15-19. Winners in the high school category receive scholarship money for the college of their choice, which is doubled if a student applies and is accepted to Gallaudet. The elementary school students receive cash prizes. All the winners' entries, and a list of all participants, are published in the Clerc Center's contest publication, *Celebrate!*, which is available in print and online. ■

2009 Gallaudet Essay, Art, and ASL Contest winners

Essay

(ages 15-19)

- First place—**Nia Lazarus**, Berkeley High School (Calif.)
- Second place—**Scott Symes**, Minnesota North Star Academy
- Third place—**Ashleigh Dreyer**, Michigan School for the Deaf

(ages 9-14)

- First place—**Joshua Mora**, California School for the Deaf, Fremont
- Second place—**Gus Shitama**, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
- Third place—**Samantha Ribaud**, Haysville West Middle School (Kan.)

ASL

(ages 15-19)

- First place—**Victoria Ward**, Louisiana School for the Deaf
- Second place—**Lauren Adams**, Louisiana School for the Deaf
- Third place—**Shaynedonovan Elliott**, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (Ga.)

(ages 9-14)

- First place—**Dakota Daniels**, California School for the Deaf, Fremont
- Second place—**Emma Crawford**, Texas School for the Deaf
- Third place—**Amelia Hamilton**, Texas School for the Deaf

Art

(ages 15-19)

- First place—**Ashleigh Rice**, Washington School for the Deaf
- Second place—**Jessica Arevao**, California School for the Deaf, Fremont
- Third place—**Pauline Widurski**, Illinois School for the Deaf

(ages 9-14)

- First place—**Katie Renee Baker**, Odessa Middle School (Mo.)
- Second place—**Anna Lynch**, MSSD (D.C.)
- Third place—**Chrissie Marshall**, British Columbia School for the Deaf (Canada)

Ask Cousin Sally

Dear Cousin Sally,



Photo by Brenda Ferrell

My 15-year-old son, Brian, and I were participating in the 3rd Annual National Walk for Epilepsy in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, March 28. As we neared the finish line, Brian ran into a group of young men from Gallaudet University. He greeted them and immediately latched onto a tall, handsome student named Scott. Brian somehow finagled a piggy-back ride from this young man. When I caught up with them, one of the young men in the group told me that they were a fraternity from Gallaudet and that they had volunteered to help out with the Walk for Epilepsy. When I learned this, I was so impressed. Just goes to show that "disabled" people are NOT really disabled at all, and we, each, really do have

something to share with others, each of us in our own way.

I am grateful to Scott and his friends for being at the National Walk for Epilepsy. I am thankful for Gallaudet University and its mission to educate young people who are deaf, so that they can make a difference in our world, today.

Sincerely,
Brenda Ferrell
Knoxville, Tenn.

Ms. Ferrell,

This note warmed me up better than hot milk from a wood stove. Believe it or not, Cousin Sally was at this walk (you might have noticed the woman with the stylish "cheese head" hat), and I watched Scott's group with interest. I counted 22 young wranglers from his Kappa Gamma fraternity, which is one of the most active Greek organizations when it comes to community service. It is wonderful to find that those fellows not only raised funds for a good cause, but won some new Gallaudet fans, to boot.

Experiencing Power Shift '09

By Clara Baldwin

Imagine being in a building among 12,000 college students who are all passionate about environmental issues. That was the scenario at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center February 27 through March 1, where the energy, the vibe, and the aura were nothing short of mind-blowing.

The event was the Power Shift conference, which was back from a two-year absence. The conference's purpose is to bring young people together to discuss and learn about the future of alternative energy, greener jobs, and ending America's reliance on coal.

Gallaudet's involvement began when Power Shift representative Drew Reisinger contacted Green Gallaudet and urged the organization to be part of the conference. From there, Green Gallaudet recruited 12 students to register online.

The Gallaudet students jumped right in on the opening night of the conference, which featured the first of nine keynote speakers, the most memorable in this writer's opinion being Van Jones, one of *TIME* magazine's 2008 Environmental Heroes and author of *The Green Collar Economy*. Jones declared, "There is no such thing as unicorns, there is no such thing as tooth fairies, and there is no such thing as clean coal!" The spectators roared at this statement, and began chanting "POWER SHIFT, POWER SHIFT, POWER SHIFT" in unison as one big environmental family.

Another significant moment was seeing a presentation by the charismatic woman who helped found Power Shift in 2007—Energy Action Coalition Executive Director Jessy Tolkan. It was

remarkable that this unassuming, five-foot-tall woman could gather thousands of college students from all 50 states for an event like this, but after her dynamic presentation, it was clear that her influence is justified.

The workshop sessions in Power Shift were just as inspiring as the speakers. With about 40 choices per session, it was hard to decide which workshops and panels to attend. They included timely topics like: "The Story of Coal, Past, Present, and Future"; "Clean Technology and Energy Policy"; and "Environmental Justice: Making Sure Green is Fair." One panel brought mayors from as far away as Salt Lake City, Utah to describe what they did to make their communities greener.

In addition to exploring those fascinating topics, one of the main perks of Power Shift is getting to meet people from all over, and know that they all care deeply about these issues. Another wonderful part was Saturday night's line-up of bands—with top-notch light shows! The event closed with what was estimated to be the largest Capitol Hill lobby day on climate change and energy in history. And in spite of the snow, there was a successful rally at the Capitol that day to bring attention to climate change.

It would be impossible to summarize everything that Green Gallaudet learned and the connections it made over the weekend. Perhaps it is sufficient to say that the group came away from the experience thinking that nothing could beat Power Shift. ■

(Note: Clara Baldwin is Green Gallaudet's education track director. She can be reached at clara.baldwin@gallaudet.edu.)

Gallaudet celebrates Women's Awareness Month



ABOVE: Sorority members (from second left) Ryan Orlick of Delta Zeta, Renca Dunn of Phi Kappa Zeta, and Stephanie Moore of Delta Epsilon represent their respective organizations during a panel on women and Greek life. BOTTOM LEFT: Judy Stout, a student enhancement educator for Student Life at the KDES, presents at Student Activities' Women's Awareness Month kickoff on March 4. Student Activities staff member Alexandria Pucciarelli explained that the focus of the month of activities was on finding identity and giving back to the community. Stout shared her advice on how to achieve these things, and described her own path to leadership roles in organizations like the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Democrats Club and the Intertribal Deaf Council. "Start small and basic," she advised. "Go up to someone and say 'how are you?'" From there, one can build connections and gain confidence, she said. BOTTOM RIGHT: Kelsey Gilstrap (left) and Yashaira Romilus perform a scene in the show "REAL Women, REAL Beauty," sponsored by Campus Activities. The goal of the show was to change how the audience defined beauty, to defy society's expectations for women, and to promote the idea that women of all shapes, colors, backgrounds, and lifestyles are beautiful.



Among Ourselves

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about the book on April 14 by ABC's "Good Morning America" anchor Robin Roberts. Matlin will also serve as honorary chair of Gallaudet's WORLDEAF Cinema Festival, which will be held November 4 to 7. The festival is sponsored by the Provost's Office.

Several Gallaudet faculty, staff, and students presented at the 2009 American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association Conference, held April 15 to 19 in San Antonio, Tex. **Dr. Donna Morere**, a professor in the Department of Psychology, and **Pamela Dean** and **LaNina Mompremier**, clinical psychology doctoral students, spoke on "Mental Health Assessment of Deaf Clients: Issues with Interpreter Use and Assessment of Persons with Diminished Capacity and Psychiatric Populations." **James Schiller**, an instructor in the Department of Social Work, presented with two other individuals on "Substance Abuse in the Deaf Community; Update on Current Research, Tolls, Professional Training Opportunities." **Anjali Desai-Margolin**, acting director, and **Daniel Veit**, internship/employment advisor, both of the Career Center, and **Robert Weinstock**, special assistant to the provost, presented on internships and other services offered in the Career Center. A significant number of other people from the Gallaudet community, including alumni, attended the conference.

Women's eNews, a non-profit online news agency covering issues of particular concern to women, will honor **Marilyn Smith**, '74 & G-'77, executive director of Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), at its annual "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" event on Thursday, May 7 in New York City. When Smith founded ADWAS in 1986 in the basement of her home, it was the first deaf-managed and fully accessible domestic violence and sexual assault organization in the United States—a distinction the organization held until 2000. The University recognized Smith's efforts by awarding her an honorary doctorate degree in 2004. Read more about *Women's eNews*, the event, and Smith's nomination at www.womensenews.org/21leaders2009.cfm.

Study tour panel and Business Bowl look at national and international economies



Winners in the Seventh Annual Sutcliffe Business Bowl are congratulated by Graduate School and Professional Programs Dean Carol Erting and Dean Emeritus and founder of the competition, Ronald Sutcliffe. Pictured are (from left): Christopher Kearney, accounting major, second-place (\$250); Dr. Erting; Robert Siebert, business major, first-place (\$500); Dr. Sutcliffe; and Arthur Chan, accounting major, third-place (\$100).

The Department of Business hosted a panel on April 2 to share what its faculty members learned during four international study tours, then gave students a chance to show off their knowledge of the world of business at the Seventh Annual Sutcliffe Business Bowl.

The panel, which was facilitated by Marie Ogork, an instructor in the department, included reports from tours to India, China, South Africa, and Botswana. Professor Thomas Baldrige talked about his experiences traveling to India recently, where he attended a workshop for business faculty and remained in the country to visit the offices and factories of several Indian businesses, the national center for deaf services, the country's deaf residential school, and its first green building.

Associate professor Qi Wang related what she had learned while in China, a country that has grown exponentially in recent years. "China is now the second largest economy in the world and the United States' biggest creditor," she said. Dr. Wang was born and raised in China, but the faculty and staff members who joined her on a recent visit were seeing the country for the first time. Department of Business Internship Coordinator Georgette Lopes related her surprise at the cultural differences, including the retirement age. Chinese citizens retire at 50 or 55, a decade or more before their American counterparts, to make way for new workers.

Another study tour to South Africa and Botswana helped Instructor Reed Gershwind gain a historical perspective. He last visited the country just after apartheid, the government-imposed system of racial segregation, ended in 1994. "They are now working better together and making progress," he said. The group visited various businesses, banks, and universities, including a hearing aid factory in Gaborone, Botswana. Faculty

also met with deaf employees and employers for internship opportunities for students.

Each presenter expressed gratitude for the chance to travel, thanks to a project funded with the help of a grant from the Business and International Education program under the U.S. Department of Education.

Perhaps one of the greatest lessons they can share from these experiences, said department chair Khadijat Rashid, who is also the principle investigator for the grant, is the speed with which these countries' economies are growing. "We cannot sit back and think that we're ahead," Dr. Rashid warned.

The valuable information faculty and staff gathered from their travels will be shared with business students through lectures, and used to shape future courses as well as a minor in international economics.

The Sutcliffe Business Bowl, held shortly after the panel, highlighted the diverse and dynamic curriculum offered by the department, with questions covering the disciplines of accounting, business administration, computer information systems, economics, and finance. The competition was established in 2002 by assistant professor of business Bernie Brown, now retired, in honor of Dean Emeritus Ronald Sutcliffe.

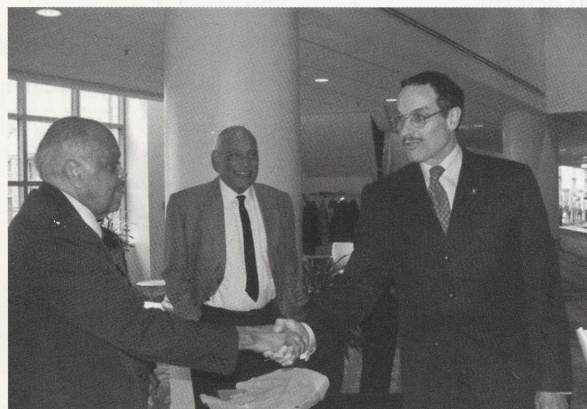
After an initial screening, 16 students squared off to answer 10 multiple choice questions. The field of contestants was then winnowed down to seven for the second round, a "Scattergories" competition testing business acumen. The intense final round—featuring multiple-choice, Scattergories, true or false, and open questions, as well as audience lifelines—pitted the wits of senior Arthur Chan, junior Christopher Kearney, and sophomore Robert Siebert against each other.

Siebert prevailed to capture first place, followed by Kearney and Chan, respectively. ■

Business Department faculty and a staff member relate what they learned from study tours to South Africa, Botswana, China, and India. The panel consisted of (from second left): Dr. Thomas Baldrige, Dr. Qi Wang, and Dr. Khadijat Rashid. (Also on the panel but not pictured were Georgette Lopes and Reed Gershwind.) They were introduced by Marie Ogork (left).



GCRC holds 26th annual awards and recognition program



Gallaudet Community Relations Council (GCRC) Chair George Boyd (left) greets Washington, D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray at the GCRC's 26th Annual Awards and Recognition Program. (Also pictured is John Washington of the Woodridge Civic Association.)

By Sharrell McCaskill

The Gallaudet University Community Relations Council (GCRC) held its 26th Annual GCRC Awards and Recognition program on April 11 at the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Hotel. The event is a forum for local community organizations to honor individuals who have made significant contributions towards community betterment and improving the quality of life for residents of the Near Northeast community.

The theme of this year's program, "GCRC, Being a Part of the Change," was echoed throughout the keynote address by D.C. City Council Chairman Vincent Gray. He spoke of today's Gallaudet being a far different place—a welcoming place—as opposed to the way it was when he was a youth in the neighborhood and was chased away from the campus by security guards. Gray offered four recommendations for GCRC to continue its efforts to change perceptions of isolation from neighborhood residents: step up efforts to offer youth programs; offer mentoring programs to community children; offer programs/activities that bring community children to campus to get a feel for the college experience; and consider participating in established programs that welcome ex-offenders back into society.

Ward 5 Councilmember Harry

Thomas Jr., who introduced Gray, noted that Gallaudet has taken steps to welcome the community to the campus, and he thanked GCRC for its efforts to allow a neighborhood football team to use the Hotchkiss Field for practice on weekday evenings. Thomas also reaffirmed the D.C. City Council's commitment to work with Gallaudet in its development plans for the 6th Street Market Project.

Award recipients at this year's event included President Davila, who was recognized for his support and commitment to the

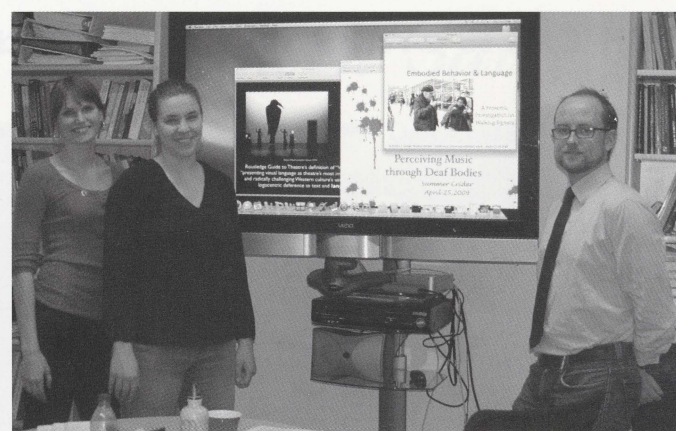
GCRC and to positive community relations; and Fire Engine 10, which is temporarily housed in a section of the Appleby Building while its facility is being renovated. Dr. Melody Batten-Mickens, Department of Public Safety (DPS) chief, and Lieutenant Virginia Fedor, coordinator of special services and investigations for DPS, presented the awards to the District of Columbia Fire Engine 10. Also, Father Gerard Trancone, Gallaudet's chaplain received the Edward C. Merrill Award for outstanding community service. Another award was presented by Student Body Government President Nicholas Gould to Leah Katz-Hernandez, a Gallaudet undergraduate student, in recognition of her community service efforts. Among the area students who received GCRC Academic Achievement awards were Clerc Center eighth grade students Franco Maddox and Arjanee Davis.

The awards ceremony was attended by more than 200 community and University guests, including Dr. Davila, Provost Stephen Weiner, Vice President for Administration and Finance Paul Kelly, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Paul Drehoff, and Executive Director of Program Development Fred Weiner from Gallaudet's administration. The Mistress of Ceremonies for the program was Dr. Angela McCaskill, program director for Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2).



Gallaudet's Career Center and Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Government (DHHIG), a national organization that provides support services for deaf and hard of hearing federal employees, co-hosted its first Mentoring Networking Day event on February 19 to pair Gallaudet students

with mentors. Sixteen undergraduate students, who applied to be part of the mentoring program, were invited to meet potential mentors at an evening reception in Peikoff Alumni House. The mentors, deaf federal employees in various government agencies, give advice about federal government employment and professions as well as help enrich mentees' education, training, and job-readiness. The reception included a panel discussion and an informative presentation which discussed the many benefits of the mentor/mentee relationship. The mentor and student pairs meet on a regular basis during the academic year. The students also "shadow" their mentor by visiting his or her office to observe how professionals work in an office setting and learn more about the professional and business side of the federal government. The panelists at Mentoring Networking Day were (from left): Jeffrey Dallos, deaf/hard of hearing team leader, Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program, Department of Defense; Kirsten Poston, disability policy analyst, U.S. Department of Transportation, board member at large for DHHIG, and a member of the Class of 1992; Socorro Garcia, human resources professional, Department of Commerce, and a member of the Class of 2007; and Jennifer Croft, disability policy advisor, Department of Commerce.



Deaf studies graduate students (from left) Summer Crider, Julia Golden, and Robert Sirvage stand by a screen displaying samples of their multimedia conference presentation based on their masters' theses.

Graduate students present on perception, performance, and existence itself

Deaf studies graduate students Summer Crider, Julia Golden, and Robert Sirvage presented at the third Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, "Bodies in Motion," held March 28 at the University of Rhode Island. The Gallaudet students, all nearing the completion of their graduate studies, drew on their final theses to make points about the nature and possibilities of human bodies.

Crider's paper challenges traditional definitions of music as taking place wholly in the realm of sound. Rhythm, beats, and patterns are not limited to sound, she argues, but transcend into other sensory realms where deaf people find appreciation in these musical elements. Therefore, the definition of music should be broadened.

To make her point, Crider cited many examples, from using drums to wake up students at deaf schools before vibrating alarm clocks were invented to the more modern conventions of signing lyrics and enjoying music through vibrations in a balloon. Findings from neurological research also support Crider's point, showing that while music travels through different venues in a deaf person's body, it is cognitively processed in the same way for both deaf and hearing people.

Golden's presentation explored non-verbal visual theater, in particular how directors' and actors' work is transmitted and received in this genre as opposed to traditional literary-based theatre practices. The pieces she studied included the Gallaudet Theatre Arts Department production *Goya: en la Quinta del Sordo* and *Are Your Ears Blind*, directed by Presidential Fellow for Dean's Special Activities Monique Holt, as well as productions by Synetic Theater of Arlington, Va. and Hong Kong Theater of the Silence.

Golden both evaluated the performance techniques used and how theatergoers perceived the performances. She argued that such productions allow bodies to communicate directly with other bodies, and thus can reveal unique experimental and creative qualities and reach people in different ways than spoken or signed theatre.

The question of what makes humans exist—or believe that they exist—and how people interact with one another—was central to Sirvage's presentation. He tackled this broad discussion by looking at the specific area of how signers walk and communicate. For this group, seeing one another is the key to existence. Therefore, Sirvage found, sign language users stand at certain angles and distances in relation to one another, maintain eye contact, and look out for obstacles in the active signer's way.

This shared visual world way of navigating through space, Sirvage said, reinforces a sense of collectivistic sentiment among signers. Applying this to architectural design might bring an end to the isolating shapes of park benches and airplane seats, and open up possibilities that could benefit all people.

All three students made use of a variety of media, including photographs, graphics that they had developed, and video. This made them stand out, they said, among the presenters using more traditional methods like reading aloud from a printed lecture. Each of their presentations led to lively discussion and positive feedback from colleagues, including students involved in sensory studies and the director of the conference herself.



This year the Communication Studies Department inducted 10 students into the Iota Nu Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Studies Honor Society. Pictured (from left) are: back row—Colleen Doyle, Patrick Baker, Jeanine Wiesblatt, Rebecca Teslow; second row—Dr. Lillie Ransom, faculty advisor, Heather Quinn, Ursa Rewolinski; front row—Erin Kelly, Ashley McArroy, and Zach Zuchegno. (Not pictured is inductee Heidi Henley.)